**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today released the following statement on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, an annual celebration of the Earth's environment that also raises awareness about the importance of conservation:

"On Earth Day, we celebrate America's commitment to preserving our environment for future generations," said Rep. Sanchez. "At the same time, we also recognize the important economic rewards that come from environmental sustainability. In the last year, Congress has passed some important policies that will create hundreds of thousands of green jobs while promoting energy independence. We need to keep making these kinds of smart investments if we want America to lead the world's 21st century green economy.

Rep. Sanchez has been and continues to be a strong supporter of conservation efforts both in California and across America. In the last year, the Congresswoman voted for the historic American Clean Energy & Security Act of 2009 that would reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, invest in new clean energy and efficient technologies, and combat the carbon pollution causing climate change.

Rep. Sanchez has also been a fierce advocate for green projects in Orange County. She has secured millions of dollars in federal funding for a number of environmentally sustainable projects, including the Municipal Water District of Orange County's smart irrigation system and water conservation efforts.

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